

全国 2021 年 4 月高等教育自学考试

英语写作试题

课程代码:00603

1. 请考生按规定用笔将所有试题的答案写在答题纸上。
2. 答题前,考生务必将自己的考试课程名称、姓名、准考证号用黑色字迹的签字笔或钢笔填写在答题纸规定的位置上。

I. Supply the missing paragraph. (20 points)

The following passage is incomplete with one paragraph missing. Study the passage carefully and write the missing paragraph in about 100 words. Make sure that your tone and diction are in unity with the passage provided.

Embracing School Uniforms

Where do you stand on the issue of school uniforms? Does the dress code have a direct impact on students' overall performance? In the past few decades, many schools have made wearing school uniforms mandatory. Although critics of mandatory uniform policies remain, the evidence of positive effects is substantial. Mandatory school uniforms offer extraordinary benefits to students and school systems, including improvements in students' self-esteem, academic performance, and graduation rates.

It has been observed that wearing uniforms boosts students' self-esteem. When everyone wears the same clothing, students from underprivileged families do not stand out from others. No one wears expensive jewelry or designer labels, and no one wears gang colors or other clothing that shows they are part of a special group. Uniforms can enhance students' sense of belonging and increase morale. Meanwhile, peer pressure and competition are reduced. Uniforms help to create unity amid diversity by easing ethnic and cultural tensions and encouraging positive values, such as tolerance and empathy. Uniforms eliminate the pressure to conform and allow students' attention to be directed to learning and growing.

Mandatory school uniforms can also lead to an increase in students' graduation rates, which would have positive effects on society as a whole. "Dressed for Success," a pro-uniform editorial, highlights a recent study showing that graduation rates at sixty-four high schools in five cities improved after they implemented mandatory uniform policies. The study found that graduation rates at these schools rose by 10.9 percent in the past decade, while graduation rates at similar high schools without mandatory uniform policies dropped by 4.6 percent. The editorial concludes that, since high school diploma is often seen as a gateway to success beyond the classroom, more diplomas will translate into increased job and training opportunities for young people.

The subject of school uniforms has generated a good deal of controversy. Some see the policies as discouraging free speech and repressing individuality. However, their objections are not persuasive enough. There is convincing evidence that mandatory school uniforms have significant benefits. If such policies are conducive to improving students' self-esteem, academic performance, and graduation rates, the policies should be embraced and promoted. After all, the potential for positive changes has proven a big plus.

II. Write an outline. (20 points)

Read the following passage carefully and compose a "Topic Outline" for it.

When to Get Married

Over the past thirty-five years, we have been waiting longer before settling down. A study shows that men are getting married for the first time seven years later and women six years later. This means that the average man is aged 32 when he asks "Will you marry me?" and the average woman is 29 when she says "Yes." But is this trend towards the thirty-something marriage making us happier and more satisfied? My answer is: The earlier the marriage commitment is, the greater the chances of a long, happy partnership are.

My past conversations with people who married in their twenties show that they often report tough times in the early stage: living with in-laws, managing financial problems or moving around the country as one partner gets promoted. Also, couples who marry relatively early can grow apart, especially when one partner has been successful at work.

However, the greatest threat to the twenty-something marriage is wondering if they could meet a better person when reaching 40. This is particularly dangerous when someone who married his or her first love starts dreaming about what he or she has missed. They don't know who they are and what they need from a relationship.

Yet, when faced with forty-something couples in crisis, I always feel more optimistic

about the outcome for those who married in their twenties than those who married in their thirties. Why should this be? If you marry later, you are more likely to bring old baggage into your relationship. In some cases, I help couples understand the influence of a partner from two or three relationships back. For example, to those who once had a suspicious partner forever questioning them about their movements, an innocent inquiry such as “What time will you be back?” can sound aggressive.

People marrying later may expect more from the relationship. This is because one of the best ways of recovering from a failed relationship and starting to look again is to tell oneself: “I deserve better,” or “Next time I’ll meet Mr. or Miss Right.” There is nothing wrong with this strategy. But unfortunately, if the next relationship does not deliver, the bitterness becomes a bit greater and the desire for perfection a bit stronger.

The final issue about getting married at thirty-something is the need to start a family almost immediately. Many couples have no time to get to know each other properly or put down solid roots together. If a relationship has been built on long weekend lie-ins and late breakfasts, the demands of small children can be a shock. The couple may, to a large extent, be deprived of social life. This sense of isolation is worse if the grandparents are correspondingly older, too, and not fit enough to help.

Although the ultimate deciding factor in the success of a relationship is the character, determination and generosity of each partner (and that is not determined by age), my advice is always to seize the day and commit.

III. Compose an essay. (60 points)

People often fear darkness, failures or uncertainties. Yet, as the saying goes, “The greatest fear is fear itself.” What does the saying imply? Do you agree with it? Write a 300-word expository essay to express your opinion.